

A View of the Valley

by

Eileen Hanrahan Ward

A View of the Valley

by

Eileen Hanrahan Ward



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

John Eckman, Ph. D. Curriculum Director, Valley View
District 365U

Rev. Vern W. Ellis, Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Altamont,
Illinois

Mrs. Robert C. Hill, College View, Lockport, Illinois

John J. Lukancic, Personnel Administrator, Valley View
District 365U

Louise Nelson, retired music teacher, Valley View District
365U

A. J. Nilles, retired physical education teacher, Valley
View District 365U

J. Patrick Page, teacher at Romeoville High School

Bernadeen Sartori, teacher at R. C. Hill School

Paul F. Swinford, Finance Administrator/Treasurer in Valley
View District 365U

DEDICATION

In 1987, Barbara K. Adams, Library Media Center librarian, and John Troughton, Physical Education teacher, of Irene H. King Elementary School in Valley View Public Schools Community Unit District 365U, asked Eileen Ward, a retired teacher of the district to write down some of the history and her memories of teaching 48 years, her entire teaching career, in the district. The following pages, which are dedicated to the present employees of the District, are the result.

BIOGRAPHY

Eileen Catherine Hanrahan Ward was born in Joliet, Illinois, July 6, 1909. Her parents were the late Margaret and William Hanrahan. She and her family moved to the Lemont area when she was three years old. In 1921 they moved to a farm in Will County, Bluff Road, School District #96. She attended St. Patrick's Grade School and Lemont Township High School. When her father died in 1932, she, her mother and brother, Pollard, moved to Lemont. From 1932 until 1936, while she was living in Lemont, she traveled by means of a 1930 Model A Ford, back and forth to teach at Sprague Rural School. She married Bernard Ward of DuPage Township in 1936 and moved to a farm. This farm, on which she and her family lived for 40 years, was located on what is now known as the I-55 Frontage Road, 2 miles west of the present Valley View building. After the death of her husband, she moved to Romeoville, where she still resides. Almost her entire life was spent in the Valley View School District area.

A VIEW OF THE VALLEY

1928 - 1988

Eileen Hanrahan, then age 19, now Mrs. Bernard Ward, went straight from Assisi Junior College, now the College of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois, to a teaching career in September 1928, in a one-room rural school then known as Taylor School, located on Illinois 53 across from where the Romeoville High School now stands. From 1929 to 1931 she attended summer school at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois. She attended evening classes at Lewis College from 1954 to 1958. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in English in 1958 from Lewis. She did graduate work at Northern Illinois and Loyola Universities. She taught in the district, now known as Valley View Public Schools Community Unit District 365U, 48 years, her entire teaching career, for nearly five decades. She taught two generations of students and was close to teaching students of a third generation.

In the fall of 1927, while attending Assisi Junior College, Mrs. Ward wrote the State Board Examination for Certification of Teachers. She received a Secondary Certificate valid for teaching in the public schools of Illinois for four years; however, she continued to attend Assisi Junior College until June 1928, when she began her teaching career. In 1931, she received a Limited State Elementary Certificate valid for teaching and supervising in

the 10 grades of any public school in the state of Illinois for a period of four years. This certificate was subject to annual registration by the county superintendent of schools of the county in which she was engaged to teach. In August 1961, she received a high-school certificate valid for teaching American Literature, Rhetoric, Composition, English Literature, European History, and Philosophy. She still registers her certificates annually.

In addition to teaching and keeping records, she swept floors, started the furnace, carried out ashes, washed green chalkboards, cleaned erasers, and dusted. For all of this work she received \$90 a month for nine months. This salary was considered high, since most rural-school teachers in Will County received \$65 a month.

Even though the rural-school teachers had many duties in addition to teaching, their work was not so difficult. The students enjoyed going to school and teachers had no problems with discipline. Teachers were regarded as very special people and had the respect of all the residents in the area.

The Taylor School was considered the most modern rural school in Will County. The exterior of the building was constructed of red brick. The interior had oak woodwork, a large built-in bookcase with glass doors, hardwood floors in the entire building, green chalkboards, windows on the left side of the classroom, a furnace room, separate cloak rooms for boys, girls, and the teacher, indoor plumbing, and

electric lights. The desks of the students were not nailed to the floor and would be considered modern even today.

In 1930, Eileen Hanrahan accepted a position in District 99, now District 365U, at Sprague Rural School located on the north-west corner of Illinois 53 and Normantown Road. Here she received \$100 a month for nine months. In November 1936, she married the late Bernard J. Ward. She had a very difficult time to hold her position since married women were not permitted to teach in the schools of Will County. Not until World War II, 1941-1945, were married women employed as teachers. The reason they were hired during the war was because most men were drafted into the service. However, the Board of Directors, as the School Board was called, decided to renew her contract. She and Bernard had two children, Bernadette and William, who attended the Sprague rural school in the district. William and his wife, Brenda, live with their daughters, Christine and Susan, in College View subdivision, Lockport, Illinois. Christine and Susan were fourth-generation members of the Ward family to attend the schools in this district. Christine attended Valley View Elementary School and Susan attended Park View Elementary School during their kindergarten days. They attended St. Andrew's School in Romeoville for their elementary and junior high education.

Eileen Ward held a position in the rural schools of this district until 1954 when the rural schools were closed and the students and the teachers moved into the new graded

school, Valley View School, on Naperville Road, which was called Valley View School District 96.

As early as January 1939, consolidation of small school districts would be affected under the provisions of the bills then pending before the state legislature, and sponsored by the late Senator Richard J. Barr. In Will County there were 66 districts, out of a total of 182 in the County, which had 10 pupils or less.

In 1953, Valley View Elementary School District 96 was formed by combining six one-room rural schools into a single consolidated district. While Valley View School was being constructed, students of the district attended six rural schools. Ken Hermansen was employed as principal and taught Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 at Hillside School on the Naperville Road; Dorothy Allen taught Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 from the same area at Barbers Corner School across from where the Jewel is now located in Bolingbrook; Eileen Ward taught Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 at the Sprague School on the corner of Illinois 53 and Normantown Road; Irene King taught Grades 1, 2, and 3 at the Chapman School located where the K-mart in Bolingbrook now stands. Beatrice Heggerty taught Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 at Taylor School on Illinois 53 across from the present Romeoville High School; Clarice Gehrke taught Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 at the Spangler Rural School located at the corner of Taylor and Weber Roads.

In 1954, the rural schools named in the above paragraph were closed, and the teachers and the pupils moved into the new building, Valley View School on the Naperville Road.

A contest was conducted among the students of School District 96 to name the new school. Donna Chilvers, a sixth-grade student, submitted the name, Valley View School, which was chosen as the winning name. She received a U. S. Savings Bond for her winning entry. The name is appropriate for the district since the school is built on high ground overlooking the DesPlaines River and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The city of Joliet, named for the explorer, Louis Joliet, who with Father Marquette, a Jesuit priest and an explorer, sailed down the DesPlaines, lies south of the heart of the Valley View School District.

The teachers were assigned to the following grades: Irene King, Grade 1; Dorothy Allen, Grade 2; Clarice Gehrke, Grade 3; Lillie Eneix, Grades 4 and 5; Kenneth Hermansen, Principal, Grades 6, 7, and 8, Science and Math; Eileen Ward, Grades 6, 7, 8, English, Girls' P. E., Cheerleading Coach; Donald Binder, Grades 6, 7, 8, Social Studies, Boys' P. E., and coaching basketball, baseball, and touch football; and Louise Nelson, Music, Grades 1 - 8.

In June 1955, Donald Binder was drafted into the Army and A. J. Nilles was employed to replace him in September 1955. The total number of students registered in the school year, 1954-1955, was 89.

In 1954, the first seven-member School Board in the district was elected. The members were: Joseph Brassai, Delbert Breitweiser, Howard Hassert, Fred Kling, Earl Melsinger, Harold Staffeldt, and Bernard J. Ward.

School District 96 coasted comfortably with no expansion needed until the fall of 1959. The assessed valuation of the district grew to \$555 million, thanks to the construction of the Commonwealth Edison power plant in the southeastern part of Romeoville.

In 1959 and for several years following, Alexander Construction Company bought the large farm owned by the late S. B. Thoresen, a large farm owned by the late Alice Spangler, a large farm owned by Hayes and John Alexander, the farm owned by Charles Hahn, Sr., and the farm owned by the late Belle Kennedy. The first two tracts purchased were called Hampton Park. Later, the entire area was named Romeoville. The area sold by Charles Hahn, Sr. is referred to as Honeytree. Alexander Construction Company began to build homes on the large area immediately. Then came the explosion in population. Elementary school population jumped 260 percent to 542. National Homes were built at the rate of five or more a day. The first residents came from the South and from Chicago. At the same time, farm land in the Bollingbrook area was being purchased by developers. In the mid-60's, the population in this area grew from 5,357 to a population of 8,000 in the 1970 census.

In 1959, the year that the school enrollment doubled in only one year, a 23-room addition to the Valley View School was approved by the voters and constructed.

In 1962, Park View Elementary, now known as Robert C. Hill Elementary School, in Romeoville on 616 Dalhart was opened. In 1964, the district built an air-conditioned addition to Park View. The name of the school was changed by the Board of Education in August 1977 to honor the head maintenance man, the late Robert C. Hill, who had worked at the school for several years. Charles Oswalt was the first principal. The present principal is William Jenkins and the associate principals are Paula Bowling and Michele Romolt.

In 1963, ground was broken for an 8-grade school, North View in Bolingbrook on 151 E. Briarcliff Road. Frank Kolinski was employed to be the principal. While North View was under construction, the Bolingbrook students who would be attending North View School were attending Park View (Grades 1 - 5) and Valley View (Grades 6-8) Schools. Those who attended Park View were on half-day sessions. In the spring of 1964, North View, the first school to be built in Bolingbrook, was opened as a school for eight grades. North View School celebrated its 25th anniversary in the spring of 1989. The present principal of North View is William Zielke and the associate principal is Lynda Taylor.

Dr. Irwin Widen was named as principal of the Valley View School, which housed Grades 6, 7, and 8. The

elementary students from the Romeoville area attended Park View School.

In 1964, Romeoville High School was built. Until this time, high-school students from the area attended Lockport Township High School. At first the Romeoville school was called Lockport West High School, but on July 1, 1971 the name was changed to Romeoville High School. The principal is David Carlson and the associate principal is Ron Mander.

In 1965, all of the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in the district were sent to Valley View School. This school was operated as a junior-high school while West View Junior High School was under construction. In September 1966, West View, located at 590 Belmont Drive, was opened as the first junior-high school in the district with Frank Kolinski as principal and John Lukancic as assistant principal. West View was, and still is, one of the most beautiful and unusual schools in the state. The building itself covers three and one-half acres. It is built of brick with a circular cafetorium in the center and sections called "pods" branching out in four directions. The floors are carpeted. The gym has a beautiful hardwood floor, large bleachers and shatter-proof glass backboards for basketball games. The Little Theater was built adjacent to the Band Room. Classrooms, teachers' work rooms, offices, rest rooms and the library branch off the cafetorium. The only windows in West View are in the front offices. In 1977, Nick Friend was named principal of West View Junior High and William

Dragovan was the assistant principal. In 1988, Mr. Dragovan retired, and Sharon Sheltes was appointed Associate Principal.

During her teaching career, Mrs. Ward taught all subjects to all grades, but enjoyed teaching English and Spelling more than any other subjects. She spent countless hours teaching her students the rules and the "tricks" of becoming good spellers, and coached the contestants for spelling contests. Many of them won District and Will County titles. In 1982, the team leaders and the principals of the middle schools voted to name the annual spelling contest, "Eileen Catherine Ward Spelling Contest".

A winning spell was cast over West View during the school year 1988-1989. The school was chosen as one of the best middle schools in the state of Illinois and two eighth-graders, Chris Sedlack and Bill Harenburg, led to first- and fourth-place finishes, respectively in the Will County Spelling Contest held in March at Oster Oak View School in New Lenox.

In 1969, Brook View Elementary School in Bolingbrook was opened. The school is located at 520 Gary Drive. The principal is Paul J. Mikulcik and the associate principal is Karen Udell.

In 1969, Ridge View Elementary School, located at 301 Eaton Avenue, Romeoville, was opened. The first principal was Lillie Eneix. The present principal is James Crowl and the associate principal is Robert Carlson. In 1971, an

addition was built to the school. In 1978, the name of the school was changed to Irene H. King to honor a teacher who had taught 26 years in the district. The dedication of the name was held in the spring of 1979. Mrs. King came from Florida to attend this dedication.

In the spring of 1968, the Illinois Legislature, in the closing days of the 66th General Assembly, voted to make kindergarten compulsory in all public school districts in the state. The fall kindergarten enrollment expected for 1970 was estimated at 1,320. This immediately increased the number of pupil stations required in the school system by 660, allowing for double kindergarten sessions. The school, in a single year, would need to provide approximately 20 classes in kindergarten, in addition to caring for the rapid, continuous expansion in all eight elementary grades, which averaged 600 new students a year. With the Legislature's edict of 1968, the Valley View Schools were faced with serious decisions.

School Board members, school administrators, community businessmen, teachers, and parents recognized the tremendous problems that the increasing enrollment presented.

The Valley View 45-15 Continuous School Year Plan was developed as the best logical solution to the lack of classrooms. J. Patrick Page, Valley View Schools' director of research at the time the district adopted the year-round school plan, developed a 34-foot-long 45-15 calendar to demonstrate the workings of the year-round school to parent

groups and to the Superintendent of Public Instruction officials in Springfield. (Figure 1)



FIGURE 1. J. Patrick Page, Valley View Schools' director of research, developed this 34-foot long 45-15 calendar to demonstrate the workings of the year-round school to parent groups and to State Superintendent of Public Instruction officials.

All pupils were divided into four groups by neighborhoods. All children in the same family were on the same schedule, unless the parents requested otherwise. Each group attended school for 45-class-days and then had a 15-class-days' vacation. The attendance schedules for the groups were spaced 15 class days apart so that only three of the four groups were in school at the same time. The groups were divided into tracks A - B - C - D.

Four 45-class-day sessions per year provided at least 180 class days per year for each pupil.

All Illinois legal holidays were school-closing days. All pupils were out of school at the same time for a vacation at Christmas, at Easter, and at the Fourth of July. During these standard traditional vacations, the school custodians did their major maintenance and cleaning work within the classrooms.

All families had a 15-class-day vacation (which varied from 23 to 27 calendar days) in each of the four seasons of each year. However, just as a starting time for the 45 class days was on a staggered basis, so too the vacation times were on a staggered schedule.

Teachers liked the 45-15 plan. They had the option of working for 180 days a year, either rotating class days and vacation as their pupils did, or they could work as many as 238 days. Teachers were paid according to how many days per school year they worked. Individual teacher's salary went up because of more working days. In the spring of 1970,

Eileen Ward, senior teacher in the Valley View District, was one of the teachers who was given a 274-day contract for 1970-1971, the first year of the 45-15 continuous school year. The contracts the following years of the 45-15 year plan were offered a maximum of 238 days. In June 1976, Mrs. Ward retired from full-time teacher; however, during the summer months of 1976, 1977, 1978, and 1979, Mrs. Ward worked as a substitute teacher in the English department at West View Junior High for the late Robert Bockholdt, who preferred to have a three-month summer vacation. From 1979 until 1984, Mrs. Ward was a substitute teacher at West View.

Figure 2 is a copy of a 1970-71 teachers' contract offered to Mrs. Ward.

Figure 3 is a 1970-71 teachers' contract calendar.

Figure 4 is a 1970-71 teachers' salary schedule.

Figure 5 is a 1970-71 teachers' contract from the Business Office.

Figure 2

COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 90
DICKMORT, ILLINOIS

TEACHER'S CONTRACT

THIS CONTRACT, made this 1st day of May, 1970, by and between the Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 90 in the County of Will and State of Illinois, hereinafter called the Board, and Eileen Ward, a legally qualified teacher, hereinafter called the Teacher:

1. The Teacher shall be employed as a full-time teacher in the said district, to teach, instruct, and conduct the class or classes assigned, to the maximum of his/her ability; to keep a record of each pupil's attendance and studies of each pupil in his or her class; to keep a record and perform all other reasonable duties that may be designated throughout the school year, by the School Superintendent.

2. The base salary of the teacher shall be \$64.10 per day for a total of 274 days per year as per the attached teacher's contract calendar and calendar of holidays.

3. The contract is for the year 70-71 school year. The terms of this contract shall commence on June 24, 1970 and end on August 16, 1971.

4. The Teacher shall have at least five planning periods per week and each planning day shall be of equal duration with others teaching at the same level, i.e. primary, intermediate, jr. high.

5. The Teacher shall be entitled to 27 days of paid leave during the school year. The leave shall be accumulated and used at the discretion of the Teacher.

View

Comm. Arts

West

6. THE PARTIES FURTHER AGREE that this contract is subject to the laws of Illinois and the reasonable and lawful regulations of said Board.

7. Subject to a lawful meeting of the said Board of Education held at School District No. 90, Dickmorton, Illinois, on the 23rd day of March, 1970 and on the 22nd day of April, 1970, the said Board of Education has authorized the execution of this contract.

James D. Bingle
President
Robert A. Noether
Secretary

Board of Education

Eileen H. Ward
Teacher

1970-71 Teacher Contract Calendar

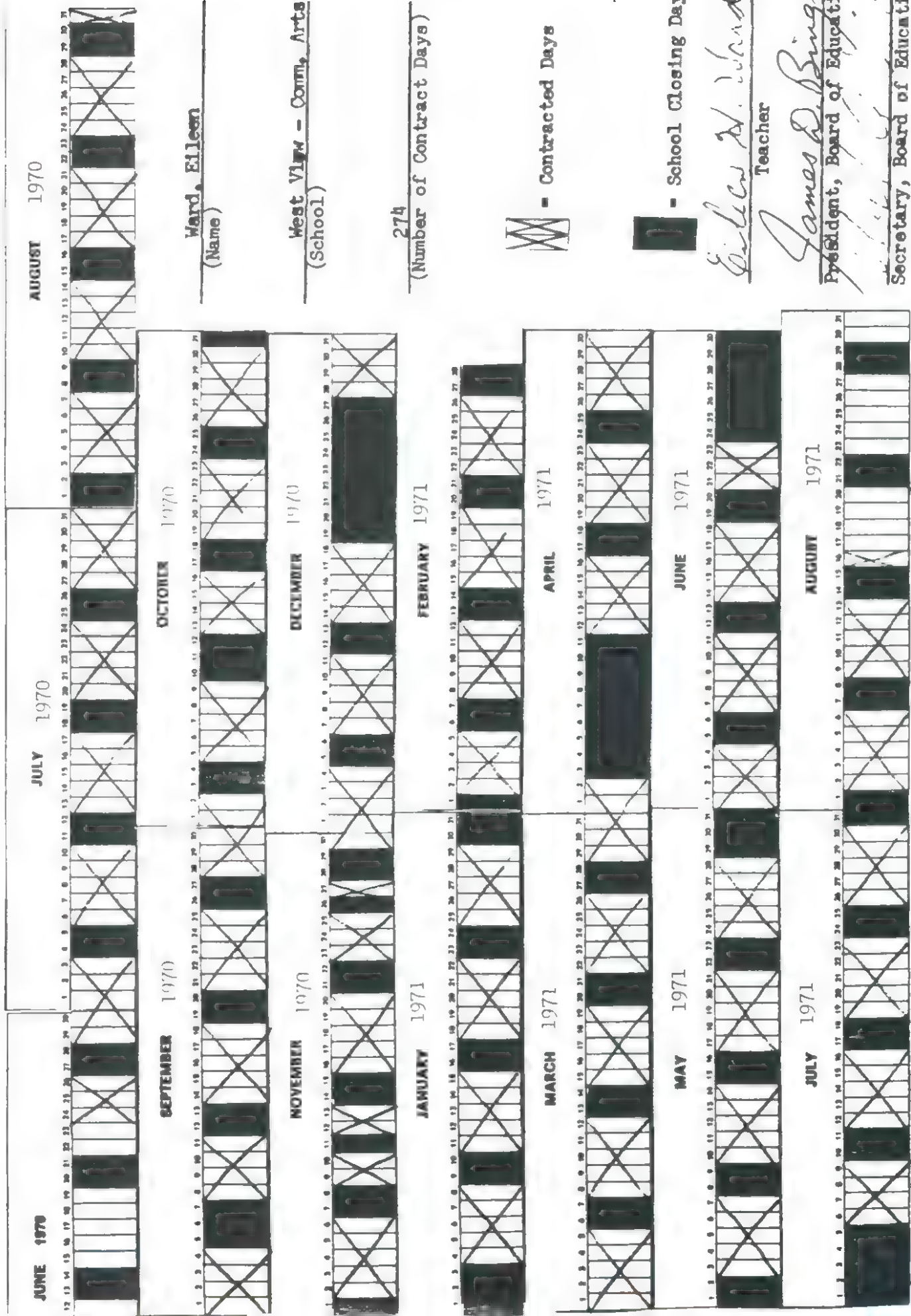


Figure 3

Figure 4

VALLEY VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT 96
 Dalhart Avenue
 Lockport, Illinois 60441
 SALARY SCHEDULE FOR 1970-1971

| Sem. Hrs. | B.A. | +10 140 | +20 150 | M.A. - | +15 175 | 2nd MA or CAS |
|-----------|--------|------------|------------|--------|------------|------------------|
| 0 | 7200 | 7300 | 7400 | 7700 | 7900 | 8100 |
| 1 | 7428 | 7535 | 7641 | 7961 | 8174 | 8387 |
| 2 | 7535 | 7641 | 7748 | 8121 | 8334 | 8547 |
| 3 | 7748 | 7854 | 7961 | 8387 | 8600 | 8813 |
| 4 | 7961 | 8067 | 8174 | 8653 | 8866 | 9079 |
| 5 | 8174 | 8280 | 8387 | 8919 | 9132 | 9345 |
| 6 | 8493 | 8600 | 8706 | 9292 | 9505 | 9718 |
| 7 | 8706 | 8813 | 8919 | 9558 | 9771 | 9984 |
| 8 | 8919 | 9026 | 9132 | 9825 | 10,038 | 10,251 |
| 9 | 9132 | 9239 | 9345 | 10,091 | 10,304 | 10,517 |
| 10 | 9345 | 9452 | 9558 | 10,357 | 10,570 | 10,783 |
| 11 | 9771 | 9878 | 9984 | 10,783 | 10,996 | 11,209 |
| 12 | 9984 | 10,091 | 10,197 | 10,996 | 11,209 | 11,433 |
| 13 | | 10,304 | 10,410 | 11,209 | 11,433 | 11,635 |
| 14 | | 10,517 | 10,623 | 11,433 | 11,635 | 11,848 |
| 15 | | | 10,836 | 11,688 | 11,848 | 12,061 |
| 16 | | | 11,369 | 12,168 | 12,381 | 12,594 |
| 20 | 10,197 | 10,730 | 11,582 | 12,381 | 12,594 | 12,807 |
| 25 | | | 11,795 | 12,700 | 12,900 | 13,200 |

Figure 5

WV

334-38-9580
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 96
Dalhart Avenue, Lockport, Illinois

BUSINESS OFFICE

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| NAME | Eileen Ward |
| Contract Period | 6/24/70- 8/16/71 |
| Number of payperiods in contract period | 30 |
| Number of days to teach | 274 |
| Daily Salary | \$64.10 |
| Total Salary (Base) | \$15,221.64 + \$2,341.76 |
| Pension Due (x .075) | \$17,563.40 1317.26 |
| Credit Union Deductions | |
| Hospitalization Deductions | |
| Tax Sheltered Annuity Deductions | |

Your salary breakdown is as follows:

| Gross Salary | Pension | Hosp. | TSA | C.U. |
|--------------|---------|-------|-----|------|
| 585.44 | 43.90 | | | |
| + 20.9 | + 26.9 | | | |

All insurance will be deducted on the 1st payperiod of the month.

70-71- 15,221.64
71-72 2,341.76

During the school year 1971-72. the name of the district was changed from Valley View District 96 to Valley View District 365U since the schools were in use every day during the year.

In 1972. Oak View Elementary School was opened on 150 N. Schmidt Road in Bolingbrook. The plan of the school was a school without walls. The administrators felt that the educational program at Oak View would be innovative. On January 1, 1980, a fire of unknown origin destroyed most of Oak View School. While the school was being rebuilt, the students from Oak View School attended North View School and R. C. Hill School. Oak View School re-opened in September 1981, as a more traditional school and walls were erected to separate the classrooms. The principal is Gary Woolwine and the associate principal is Linda Stockwell.

In 1973, after 20 years as superintendent of Valley View District, Kenneth Hermansen decided to step down and accept a position as personnel director at the Administration Center. A few years later he accepted a position as a social studies teacher at Romeoville High School. In 1983. he retired after spending 34 years in education, 30 of those years in the Valley View schools.

Mr. William Rutter, who had been assistant superintendent was named to the position of superintendent of the Valley View School District 365U in 1973. He retired in 1983 and Harry J. Hayes, Ph. D., the present

superintendent of the Valley View School District, was named to that position.

In 1974, Bolingbrook High School, 350 West Blair Lane, was opened. Romeoville High School could no longer handle the increasing numbers of high-school students in the district. The principal is Everette Green and associate principals are Kenneth Sorrick and Steve Thomas.

In 1974, Wood View Elementary School at 197 Winston Drive, Bolingbrook, was opened. The principal is Dorothy Senese and the associate principal is Carole Sinicki. In 1988, this school was honored as being one of the finest elementary schools in the nation.

In the spring of 1974, the members of the School Board decided to build a junior high school in Bolingbrook. The members voted to name the school for one of the original board members, Bernard J. Ward, a life-long resident of the district who died suddenly in 1967, while he was serving on the Board. While this school was under construction, all the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders of the district attended West View on a half-day session. The students from Romeoville attended school in the morning session. The students from Bolingbrook attended school in the afternoon session.

In September, 1975, B. J. Ward Junior High School, located at 200 Recreation Drive, Bolingbrook, was opened for the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students of Bolingbrook.

The two-million-dollar-plus school is done in a Spanish design with red brick and archways. Many unique

areas are designed into the school including a sunken reading area in the Library Media Center. Darrell G. Helm was the first principal of the school. The Ward School is the only school in the district to have a cornerstone which was donated by the Wunderlich Granite Company of Joliet. The cornerstone is made of red granite and a time capsule was placed in it in 1975. The time capsule containing remembrances of the Ward family will probably be opened in the year 2075. The principal at the present time is Ronald Krause and the associate principal is Glenna Adams.

In 1976, the Jane Addams Junior High School at 905 Lily Cache Lane, Bolingbrook, was opened. Ken Kalina was the first principal. He retired in 1988 and the present principal is Dr. Otha Lang. The associate principal is Kathleen Kouba.

In 1976, Independence Elementary School at 230 Orchard Drive in Bolingbrook was opened. The principal is Edward Carll and the associate principal is Jay Sommerfield.

In 1977, Jonas Salk Elementary School, 500 King Arthur Way, Bolingbrook, was opened. The principal is Margo Sorrick and the associate principal is Michael Gervase.

During the 1977-78 school year, the Valley View School District 365U Board of Education elected to address the needs of students in the intermediate grades, six through eight. A comprehensive organizational plan, featuring a transition from the existing junior high school to a middle school program, was adopted. The middle school plan was put

into operation in July 1978. West View would once again house seventh and eighth graders as well as sixth graders which it did in 1966 when the building opened.

One year later, 1978, Hubert H. Humphrey Middle School was opened. The school is located at 777 Falcon Ridge Way, Bolingbrook. The principal is Gary Catalani and the associate principal is Kimberly Jagiello.

The last school to be built, Jamie McGee Elementary School, was opened in September 1980. The school is located at 179 Commonwealth Drive, Bolingbrook. The school was named for a teacher and math consultant of the district.

Mr. McGee began his elementary teaching career in Valley View School in September 1964. He taught math here and also at West View. Later, he was named math consultant for the district with his office at the Administration Center. He died in 1979, while employed by the district.

During the school year, 1988-1989, the principal, Michael Silver, took a leave of absence and associate principal Michael Zolecki was named interim principal of Jamie McGee Elementary School.

In September 1980, the Valley View School District 365U returned to the traditional 9-month school year, because of declining enrollment. In the spring of 1989, the School Board was considering closing two schools by the year 1990 due to continuing enrollment decline.

The first Administration Center for the Valley View School District 96 was located at 104 McKool Street in

Romeoville. It was nicknamed Kool View. Later it was moved to the Brook View Annex in Bolingbrook. In 1975, the Administration Center was moved to the lower level of the Romeoville Fountaindale Library.

In January, 1983, Superintendent Rutter recommended to the Board of Education that the Valley View Elementary School, the original school in the Valley View District, be closed. The school board tabled the suggestion. Valley View School, located at 755 Luther Drive, Romeoville, was then one of the district's smaller schools in terms of enrollment, with about 300 students. Because of this low enrollment, closing the school was considered. With one-third of the school building being rented to Joliet Junior College, the district could house 600 students at Valley View. The school was being run at half its capacity. Combined student enrollment in kindergarten through fifth grade in the three Valley View District elementary schools south of Interstate 55 had declined for several years. All indications pointed to enrollment either remaining at the same level or continuing to decline. There was no reason to believe the trends would change. The recommendation to close the school was based on both educational and economic grounds. The closing would save the district \$110,000 a year. Of that, \$81,000 would come in savings on personnel costs. The personnel cuts would be in non-teaching and basically administrative positions. Some \$20,000 would be saved in utility costs and \$7,000 in transportation costs.

Closing the school would not mean student numbers per classroom would be any higher than anywhere else in the district. Educational quality would be consistent and some programs advantages for the youngsters could be realized. Students from south of I-55 would attend Robert C. Hill Elementary School and Irene H. King Elementary School, instead of using three buildings.

Later in the year, the School Board approved the closing of Valley View Elementary School and the Administration Center was moved from the Fountaindale Library to the Valley View School which also continued to house classes for the Joliet Junior College.

What happened to the teachers who were the pioneers and were the first teachers at Valley View School District 96 now District 365U?

Irene King retired in 1975, moved to Tampa, Florida and died in 1981; Dorothy Allen and Louise Nelson retired in 1972. Dorothy, who lived on Caton Farm Road, Joliet, died in 1983. Louise is living in Lockport. Clarice Gehrke, who lived in Plainfield, retired in 1967 and died in 1987; Lillie Eneix retired in 1977 and is living in Texas; Eileen Ward retired in 1976 and is living in Romeoville; Ken Hermansen, teacher, principal and superintendent, retired in 1983 and is also living in Romeoville; A. J. Nilles, who retired in June, 1988, is living in Lockport.

From 1954 until 1980, a span of 26 years, 16 schools were built in the Valley View District. Ten of the schools

are elementary schools, four are middle schools and two are high schools. The size of the district is 39.5 square miles. During those 26 years, the number of certified teachers grew from 7 to 812 full-time employees and 88 part-time employees. The number of non-certified employees grew from 3 to 265 employees and 135 part-time employees. The total district enrollment grew from 89 in 1953 to 12,502 in all grades in 1988.

The retired teachers of the Valley View Schools send this greeting to all the present teachers in the district:

"Meet your challenges with courage
Make your choices with wisdom
Accept your commitments with enthusiasm
And have a great journey
As you travel life's road."

From See you in September

by

Ian Ledgerwood

Valley View School District Schools

1954-1980

Valley View Elementary School - 1954

Park View Elementary School (R. C. Hill Elementary School) - 1962

North View Elementary School - 1964

Lockport West High School - 1964 (Romeoville High School - 1971)

West View Junior High School - 1966

Brook View Elementary School - 1969

Ridge View Elementary School (Irene H. King) - 1969

Oak View Elementary School - 1972 and 1981

Bollingbrook High School - 1974

Wood View Elementary School - 1974

Bernard J. Ward Junior High School - 1975

Jane Addams Junior High School - 1976

Independence Elementary School - 1976

Jonas Salk Elementary School - 1977

Hubert H. Humphrey Middle School - 1978

Jamie McGee Elementary School - 1980

First employees at West View Junior School - 1966. as Mrs.

Ward remembers them:

Frank Kolinski - Principal

John Lukancic - Assistant Principal

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Rosemary Gasper | Doris Zegler |
| Robert Gaines | Jean Wawrzyniak |
| JoAnn Miller | Evelyn Hood |
| Ronald Strahanoski | Jane Wirth * |
| Charles Wheeler | Jamie McGee * |
| John Markley | Andy Matejcek |
| Frank Vidmar | James Gove |
| Carmen Fenical | Helen Lynch |
| Evelyn Kepford | Gary Magruder |
| Patsy Robb | Don Buss |
| Hilda Miller | John Lesnik |
| Archie McAllister * | Ralph Renner * |
| Pat McCabe | Ray Hill |
| Jack Rogers | Mary Lou Forbes |
| Beverly Dixon | Lucille McGrath |
| William Black | Robert Bockholdt * |
| Connie Johnson | William Dutkiewicz |
| Dan Zerebny | Don Gale |
| A. J. Nilles | J. Pat Page |
| Mary Bossom | Nick Pell |
| Frank Mandel | Jeanette Pate |
| Donna Ryan | Mary Piskur |

Jerry Furla

Ralph Weldensee

Frank Ambrose

Mert Morrow

Mary Wilson

Les Fencial

Eileen Ward

Diane Koukol

Joe Nichols

Phyllis Foxall *

Sten Butkiewicz

Janet Phad

Jay Pate

* Deceased

BOARD OF EDUCATION. 1988-1989

Richard J. Kavanagh, President
Kristin A. Hayes, Vice President
Madeline A. Jascewsky, Secretary
Elizabeth A. Erickson
John J. Jarecki, Jr.
Carroll R. (Bob) Jones
A. Vito Martinez

ADMINISTRATION

Harry J. Hayes, Ph. D., Superintendent

John J. Lukancic, Personnel Administrator

Paul F. Swinford, Finance Administrator/Treasurer

Ronald N. Strahanoski, Business Administrator

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gove, James R. and Hermansen, Kenneth L.. The Year-Round School. Linnet Books. Hamden, Ct. (1971).

Joliet Herald News, January 11, 1983 and January 25, 1989

State of Illinois

No. 37793

State Examining Board for Teachers Certificates



Limited State Provisional Elementary School Certificate

This is to Certify that

Eileen Catherine Hamrahan

having complied with the requirements of the law, is hereby granted this

Limited State Provisional Elementary School Certificate,

valid for teaching in the elementary schools of the state for a period of four years, subject to annual registration by the county superintendent of schools of the county in which the holder is engaged to teach.

Issued by the Illinois State Examining Board for Teachers Certificates
at Springfield, this 5th day of March, 1930.

J. G. Pfeiffer

Chairman of the Board

and

August Maue

County Superintendent of

Will

County

STATE OF ILLINOIS

STATE TEACHER CERTIFICATION BOARD

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE PERSON NAMED BELOW, HAVING COMPLIED WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW, IS HEREBY GRANTED THIS CERTIFICATE, SUBJECT TO ANNUAL REGISTRATION BY THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE HOLDER IS ENGAGED TO TEACH.

| NAME LAST - FIRST - MIDDLE | DEGREE | EXAM. OR CREDIT | ILL. CONST. | U. S. CONST. | ISSUE DATE OF CERTIFICATE | | | YEARS VALID | CERTIFICATE | |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----|-----|----------------|-------------|---------|
| | | | | | MO. | DAY | YR. | | TYPE | NUMBER |
| WARD EILEEN C | 1 | C | N | N | 08 | 11 | 61 | 4 | 09 | 330680B |

DEGREE CODE: 1, BACHELOR'S; 2, MASTER'S; 3, DOCTOR'S; 4, NO DEGREE.

CONSTITUTION CODE: P, PASSED; N, NOT PASSED.

VALID FOR: 09 HIGH SCHOOL 6-12 TEACHING
 AMERICAN LIT COMPOSITION ENGLISH LIT
 RHETORIC EUROPEAN HISTORY PHILOSOPHY

ISSUED BY THE STATE TEACHER CERTIFICATION BOARD AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

George T. Wilkins
 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Harold J. Landwehrmeyer
 SECRETARY

AND

Vernon E. Enckel
 COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF

Will COUNTY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the death record for the decedent named at item 1, and that this record was established and filed in my office in accordance with the provisions of the Illinois Vital Records Act.

James E Zelbo

SIGNED

DATE

OCT 11 1994

REGISTRAR

ILLINOIS OFFICIAL TITLE

JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60433

The original record of this death is permanently filed with the ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH at Springfield. County clerks and local registrars are authorized to make certifications from copies of the original record. The Illinois statutes provide that the certification of a death record by the Department of Public Health, local registrar or county clerk shall be prima facie evidence in all courts and places of the facts therein stated.

PRINTED BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

DECEDENT'S BIRTH NO.

REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. **99.0**

REGISTERED NUMBER

STATE OF ILLINOIS

STATE FILE NUMBER

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Type or Print in PERMANENT INK See Funeral Directors, Hospital, or Physicians Handbook for INSTRUCTIONS

A
B
C
D
E

DECEASED

PARENTS

CAUSE

CERTIFIER

DISPOSITION

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------|---|--|--|---|
| DECEASED-NAME | | FIRST | MIDDLE | LAST | SEX | DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) | |
| 1. EILEEN | | CATHERINE | WARD | 2. FEMALE | 3. OCTOBER 8, 1994 | | |
| COUNTY OF DEATH | | AGE—LAST BIRTHDAY (YRS) | UNDER 1 YEAR | UNDER 1 DAY | DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) | | |
| 4. WILL | | 5a. 85 | 5b. MOS | 5c. DAYS | 5d. JULY 6, 1909 | | |
| CITY, TOWN, TWP. OR ROAD DISTRICT NUMBER | | HOSPITAL OR OTHER INSTITUTION—NAME (IF NOT IN EITHER, GIVE STREET AND NUMBER) | | | IF HOSP. OR INST. INDICATE D.O.A. OR EMER. RM. INPATIENT (SPECIFY) | | |
| 6a. JOLIET | | 6b. ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL | | | 6c. INPATIENT | | |
| BIRTHPLACE (CITY AND STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY) | | MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (SPECIFY) | | NAME OF SURVIVING SPOUSE (MAIDEN NAME, IF WIFE) | | WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (YES/NO) | |
| 7. LOCKPORT, IL | | 8a. WIDOWED | | 8b. | | 9. NO | |
| SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER | | USUAL OCCUPATION | | KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY | | EDUCATION (SPECIFY ONLY HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED) | |
| 10. 334-38-9580 | | 11a. TEACHER | | 11b. EDUCATION | | 12. 4 | |
| RESIDENCE (STREET AND NUMBER) | | CITY, TOWN, TWP. OR ROAD DISTRICT NO. | | INSIDE CITY (YES/NO) | | COUNTY | |
| 13a. 518 LAUREL AVE. | | 13b. ROMEOVILLE | | 13c. YES | | 13d. WILL | |
| STATE | | ZIP CODE | | RACE (WHITE, BLACK, AMERICAN INDIAN, etc.) (SPECIFY) | | OF HISPANIC ORIGIN? (SPECIFY NO OR YES—IF YES, SPECIFY CUBAN, MEXICAN, PUERTO RICAN, etc.) | |
| 13e. ILLINOIS | | 13f. 60441 | | 14a. WHITE | | 14b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES SPECIFY: | |
| FATHER—NAME | | FIRST | MIDDLE | LAST | MOTHER—NAME FIRST MIDDLE (MAIDEN) LAST | | |
| 15. WILLIAM | | HANRAHAN | | | 16. MARGARET POLLARD | | |
| INFORMANT'S NAME (TYPE OR PRINT) | | RELATIONSHIP | | MAILING ADDRESS (STREET AND NO. OR R.F.D., CITY OR TOWN, STATE, ZIP) | | | |
| 17a. BERNADETTE WYSOCKI | | 17b. DAUGHTER | | 17c. 14204 HAWTHORNE DR. LEMONT, IL 60439 | | | |
| 18. PART I | | Enter the diseases, or complications that caused the death. Do not enter the mode of dying, such as cardiac or respiratory arrest, shock, or heart failure. List only one cause on each line. | | | | | APPROXIMATE INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH |
| Immediate Cause (Final disease or condition resulting in death) | | (a) Cerebral Vascular Accident | | | | | 2 wks |
| CONDITIONS, IF ANY WHICH GIVE RISE TO IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) STATING THE UNDERLYING CAUSE LAST. | | (b) DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF | | | | | |
| | | (c) DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF | | | | | |
| PART II. Other significant conditions contributing to death but not resulting in the underlying cause given in PART I | | AUTOPSY (YES/NO) | | | | | WERE AUTOPSY FINDINGS AVAILABLE PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF CAUSE OF DEATH? (YES/NO) |
| | | 19a. NO | | | | | 19b. |
| DATE OF OPERATION, IF ANY | | MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION | | | | IF FEMALE, WAS THERE A PREGNANCY IN PAST THREE MONTHS? | |
| 20a. | | 20b. | | | | 20c. YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| (DID/DID NOT) ATTEND THE DECEASED AND LAST SAW HIM/HER ALIVE ON (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) | | WAS CORONER OR MEDICAL EXAMINER NOTIFIED? (YES/NO) | | HOUR OF DEATH | | | |
| 21a. Oct 8, 1994 | | 21b. NO | | 21c. 6:07 A.M. | | | |
| TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, DEATH OCCURRED AT THE TIME, DATE AND PLACE AND DUE TO THE CAUSE(S) STATED. | | DATE SIGNED (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) | | ILLINOIS LICENSE NUMBER | | | |
| 22a. SIGNATURE <i>Bruce C. Corwin</i> | | 22b. 10/10/94 | | 22d. 036-068055 | | | |
| NAME AND ADDRESS OF CERTIFIER (TYPE OR PRINT) | | 505 STATE ST. LEMONT, IL 60439 | | NOTE: IF AN INJURY WAS INVOLVED IN THIS DEATH THE CORONER OR MEDICAL EXAMINER MUST BE NOTIFIED. | | | |
| 22c. BRUCE C. CORWIN, MD; | | NAME OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN IF OTHER THAN CERTIFIER (TYPE OR PRINT) | | | | | |
| 23. | | BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (SPECIFY) | | CEMETERY OR CREMATORY—NAME | | LOCATION CITY OR TOWN STATE DATE (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) | |
| 24a. BURIAL | | 24b. ST. PATRICK | | 24c. LEMONT, ILLINOIS | | 24d. 10/11/1994 | |
| FUNERAL HOME | | NAME | | STREET AND NUMBER OR R.F.D. | | CITY OR TOWN STATE ZIP | |
| 25a. ANDERSON FUNERAL HOME 606 TOWNHALL DR. ROMEOVILLE, IL 60441 | | FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE | | FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S ILLINOIS LICENSE NUMBER | | | |
| 25b. <i>Richard Anderson</i> | | RICHARD ANDERSON | | 25c. 034-012361 | | | |
| LOCAL REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE | | DATE FILED BY LOCAL REGISTRAR (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) | | | | | |
| 26a. <i>James E Zelbo</i> | | 26b. OCT 11 1994 | | | | | |

VR200 (Rev. 5/89)

Illinois Department of Public Health—Division of Vital Records

(BASED ON 1989 U.S. STANDARD CERTIFICATE)

THE BACK OF THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS AN ARTIFICIAL WATERMARK - HOLD AT AN ANGLE TO VIEW